



City of Racine Police Department  
**Policy and Procedure**

**Number: 1910**

Subject: <b>Deceased Animals on Public Property</b>		
Date Issued: <b>05-04-84</b>	Effective Date: <b>06-06-14</b>	Revision Number: <b>4</b>

## POLICY

The health and safety of members of the community is one of the responsibilities of the Racine Police Department. During the course of our daily operations, members may be dispatched to locations of deceased or injured animals (eligible or ineligible). As a result, we must do what we can to ensure that the animals are removed from public areas. By making sure that this is done promptly, we reduce traffic and safety hazards, as well as does our part in maintaining the appearance of the community.

## DEFINITIONS

**Eligible Animals** – are dogs and cats, pot-bellied pigs, or ferrets.

**Ineligible Animals** – are those animals that typically live in a less densely populated area and are found in wooded areas. These may include animals such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, rabbits, woodchucks or birds such as pigeons, seagulls, doves, geese, ducks, groundhogs, deer or “birds of prey” or baby birds fallen from their nests. These animals are not covered within the scope of the city’s contract with Wisconsin Humane Society. For assistance with these animals, member/CSO shall request Communications contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

## PROCEDURE

### MEMBER/CSO

1. When dispatched to the scene of the deceased animal.
  - a. Determine if animal is deceased.
    - 1) If the animal is deceased, advise Communications.
    - 2) Stand by if there remains a safety or traffic hazard, until DPW arrives to remove the animal carcass.
  - b. If the animal is not deceased but is injured, handle the situation per Policy 1907.
  - c. Should it become necessary to dispatch an animal:
    - 1) Request that a supervisor be sent to the call for service.
    - 2) Care should be given to ensure that the use of firearms would not create a hazard for persons or property in the immediate area.
    - 3) Notify Communications of your intent to dispatch the animal.
    - 4) After the animal is dispatched, ensure that Communications is notified to have DPW recover the animal carcass.
    - 5) Complete a Phoenix Incident Report recording the circumstances involving the use of firearms.
2. If it appears that the circumstances of the death or injury to the animal were suspicious in nature (possibly used in dog fights, etc), notify CSO or Investigator. This would permit them to recover or examine the animal and initiate an investigation into animal abuse.

- (a) The Wisconsin Humane Society should also be notified to determine routing for treatment. If the animal is stable and confiscated during typical WHS business hours, the animal can be taken directly to WHS. If the animal is seriously injured and the confiscation takes place after hours, the animal should be taken to the nearest emergency clinic, where they have agreements for care established with the WHS. Regardless of where the animal is taken, request for evidentiary exams should be made to ensure appropriate and timely exams of the animal(s) take place.

3. Notify Communications of the results of the call for service.

## **RELATED PROCEDURES**

[1907 - Animal Control](#)

[1909 - Animals Running at Large](#)

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